

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 139180
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY HA/ORM:LARTHUR:CML
APPROVED BY HA/ORM - JLCARLIN
EUR/EE - GBOUTIN
NEA/PAB - MHORNBLOW
S/S - JTHYDEN

-----042150 012308Z /70

O P 012222Z JUN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SOFIA IMMEDIATE
INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KABUL

S E C R E T STATE 139180

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: SREF, PINS, AF, BU, UR

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE AFGHAN ASYLUM REQUEST

REF: (A) SOFIA 1002 (NOTAL); (B) STATE 119851

1. AS EMBASSY AWARE, IT IS US POLICY TO VIEW ASYLUM AS THE RIGHT AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE COUNTRY WHERE THE REQUEST IS MADE. OUR GENERAL RESPONSE TO REQUESTS FOR US ASSISTANCE FROM REFUGEES IN THIRD COUNTRIES IS REFER THEM TO APPROPRIATE HOST GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES AND TO NEAREST OFFICE OF UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR). OBVIOUSLY, THIS IS NOT FEASIBLE IN SOFIA. WE SEE LITTLE THAT WE CAN DO WHILE KOUTCHAI AND HIS FAMILY REMAIN IN BULGARIA.

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2. IF KOUTCHAI RETURNS TO AFGHANISTAN AND SUBSEQUENTLY ENTERS PAKISTAN, WE WOULD ADVISE HIM TO APPROACH GOP AND UNHCR. UNHCR COULD THEN ASSIST IN HIS RESETTLEMENT IN PAKISTAN OR ANOTHER COUNTRY. AS AFGHANISTAN WITHIN GENERAL AREA OF THE MIDDLE EAST FOR PURPOSES OF SECTION 203(A)(7) OF THE INA, KOUTCHAI IS PRIMA FACIE ELIGIBLE TO

APPLY FOR U.S. CONDITIONAL ENTRY. HOWEVER, HE WOULD HAVE TO PROCEED, EITHER ON HIS OWN OR WITH UNHCR ASSISTANCE, TO A POST WHERE C.E. APPLICATIONS ARE ACCEPTED (ROME, VIENNA,

FRANKFURT, PARIS, ATHENS, OR BRUSSELS). NO GUARANTEES CAN BE MADE REGARDING POSSIBILITY OF APPROVAL. BY SEEKING UNHCR ASSISTANCE UPON ARRIVAL IN ONE OF THESE COUNTRIES, UNHCR WOULD CONTINUE TO SEEK RESETTLEMENT FOR HIM AND HIS FAMILY IF C.E. APPLICATION NOT APPROVED. VANCE

SECRET

NNN

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